



**RMC**  
Rural Maryland Council



## Quarterly Newsletter



*Photo: Attendees at the RMC Maryland Day event on held on March 25, 2022, at Lawyer's Mall in Annapolis, Maryland.*

## Message from the Chair

Greetings!



*Photo: Ms. Charlotte Davis (Executive Director, Rural Maryland Council) speaking to attendees at one of the RMC Fiscal Year 2023 Grant Information Sessions.*

The grant cycle for the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) and the Rural Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) has closed for Fiscal Year 2023 and we are no longer accepting applications. We look forward to receiving grant applications for Fiscal Year 2024, reviewing this year's applications, and choosing the grant awardees.

On March 25, 2022, the Rural Maryland Council hosted a grab-and-go lunch for legislators at Lawyers Mall in Annapolis for a second year. The event was a great success, and the weather was perfect. We want to continue to advance our visibility with legislators during the legislative session to encourage them to support the quality of life in rural Maryland. Thank you to all the vendors and sponsors for their support in putting this event together!

Our Spring Quarterly Executive Board meeting on Friday, April 8, 2022, was held as a zoom teleconference. Highlights of the meeting included guest speakers who shared an update on their organization's projects that received funding through our Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) grant. Speakers included Mr. Sean Dennis, President, United States Bomb Technician Association, Mr. David Jones, Vice President of Advancement and Community Relations, Allegany College of Maryland, and Mr. Nick Redding, Executive Director, Preservation Maryland. Ms. Allie Gruber, Research Associate, Regional Economic Studies Institute of Towson University also provided an update to the meeting attendees on the Economic Impact Analysis report on the RMC's grant programs. RMC committee updates were also shared. View the recording of the meeting [here](#).

Save the Date! Our Fall Quarterly Executive Board meeting will be held on Friday, September 23, 2022, 12 pm - 2 pm. A location is to be determined. We plan to have a guest speaker and RMC committee updates will also be shared. A registration link will be available later in the Summer to register. Please join us!

I hope everyone has a productive Summer. As always, we strive every day to continue to improve the quality of life for our rural Maryland communities.

Sincerely,



John Hartline  
Chair

---

## Message from the Executive Director

The 2022 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session was a strong year for rural communities. Historic funding for the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund (RMPIF) and the Maryland Agricultural Education Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF), which received historic funding of \$9,001,144 in Fiscal Year 2023. We thank Governor Larry Hogan, Senate President Bill Ferguson, and House Speaker Adrienne Jones for their support. Other highlights included funding for Maryland's five regional councils at \$10 million each through the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund and the Great Maryland Outdoors Act will make much-needed investments in Maryland's state parks and replace and accelerate the current repayment schedule for the previous diversions of funds from Program Open Space. The council remained active during the 2022 Legislative Session. Activities included submitting written testimony, hosting a virtual Rural Maryland Day, and a Grab and Go lunch for legislators in Annapolis, Maryland. View our 2022 Legislative Review [here](#).

## Events

[Maryland Municipal League Conference](#)

06/12-06/15, 2022  
All Day

[Drink Maryland - Centreville](#)

06/18/2022  
12 pm - 5 pm

[RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee Meeting](#)

06/24/2022  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

[Pollinator Garden Tour](#)

06/24-06/25, 2022  
All Day



*Photo: RMC Chair Mr. John Hartline (Executive Director, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland) with a statue of the former comptroller of Maryland Louis L. Goldstein during the 2022 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session.*

[RMC FY 2023](#)  
[MAERDAF/RMPIF Phase 2](#)  
[Full Application Deadline](#)

07/15/2022  
 All Day

[Maryland Commodity](#)  
[Classic](#)

07/28/2022  
 8:30 am - 4 pm

[Maryland Association of](#)  
[Counties Conference](#)

08/17 - 08/20, 2022  
 All Day

Summer is almost here and the Rural Maryland Council's outreach events will begin soon. Each year during the warmer months, we attend festivals around the state to promote our mission and purpose to rural Maryland communities. Events that we travel to around the state include Autumn Glory, Drink Maryland, and In the Streets. If you would be interested in volunteering at one of our events, please contact us at [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov) or 410-841-5772.

On June 1, 2022, the RMC hosted an Economic Update with Richmond Fed's President Tom Barkin. Topics discussed were the state's current rural economic outlook and a discussion of issues that rural communities face. Attendees also were able to have a question and answer session with Mr. Tom Barkin following the roundtable. View a recording of the discussion [here](#).

We are looking forward to Fiscal Year 2023 and further serving our rural communities. At the bottom of this newsletter is a list of rural-focused COVID-19 links and resources for you and your business. If the Council or I can ever be of any assistance, please contact me at [charlotte.davis@maryland.gov](mailto:charlotte.davis@maryland.gov) or (410) 841-5774.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Davis  
 Executive Director

## Committee Updates



## RMC In the News

[FY2023 State Operating](#)  
[Budget includes historic](#)  
[funding for rural](#)  
[communities](#)  
 April 26, 2022

[Cemetery preservation](#)

## RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee

The RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee will meet on Friday, June 24, 2022, 10 am - 12 pm via zoom. Learn more about the meeting [here](#).

To learn more about the RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee, please contact the RMC at [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov)

## RMC Legislative Committee

The RMC Legislative Committee will meet in the Summer of 2022 to discuss the upcoming 2023 Legislative Session.

To learn more about the RMC Legislative Committee, please contact the RMC at [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov).

[workshop launches in Frederick](#)

May 1, 2022

[Berlin Property Condition Survey To Begin Next Week](#)

May 26, 2022

## Community Links

Check out what's happening in rural Maryland...

### Training Opportunities & Conferences

- [Smart Energy Investments Webinar Series](#) - Smart Energy Investments - June 8 - 22, 2022
- [Growing at the Grove](#) – Intro to Canning and the Cottage Food Industry Workshop - The Grove at Harford - June 9, 2022
- [Maryland Municipal League Conference](#) - Maryland Municipal League- June 12-15, 2022
- [Maryland Association of Counties Conference](#) - Maryland Association of Counties - August 17-20, 2022

### Awards and Grants

- [Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Funding](#) - United States Department of Agriculture - Applications due on June 10, 2022
- [Socially Disadvantaged Groups Grant](#) - United States Department of Agriculture - Applications due on June 13, 2022
- [African American Heritage Grants](#) - Maryland Historical Trust - Applications due by July 1, 2022

### Programs and More

- [Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#) - Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
- [Rural Partners Network](#) - USDA Rural Development
- [Community Investment Tax Credits Program](#) - Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development
- [New Medicare Website](#) - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- [Digital Literacy Initiative Survey](#) - University of Maryland Extension
- [Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2021 Survey](#)

## Rural Maryland Foundation



**Rural Maryland  
Foundation**

**The Rural Maryland Foundation will meet on Thursday, October 6, 2022, 1 pm - 2 pm via zoom.**

An annual report was created for Fiscal Year 2021 for the Rural Maryland Foundation to highlight the mission and the current activities of the foundation. View the report [here](#).

To learn more about the Rural Maryland Foundation or to become a member, please visit the website at [ruralmdfoundation.org](http://ruralmdfoundation.org).



- [Maryland Health Connection Website](#) - Maryland Health Connection

Email: [rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov) to share links to your events and programs. Stewardship Manager

## 2022 Tawes Crab and Clam Bake



*Photo: From far left are Mr. Scott Warner (Executive Director, Mid-Shore Regional Council), Mr. Daniel Rider (Stewardship Manager, Maryland Department of Natural Resources), Ms. Lindsay Thompson (Executive Director, Maryland Grain Producers), Governor of Maryland Larry Hogan, Mr. John Hartline (Executive Director, Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland), Ms. Charlotte Davis (Executive Director, Rural Maryland Council), Mr. Steve McHenry (Executive Director, Maryland Agricultural Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation), Mr. Matthew Teffeau (Manager of Government Affairs, Choptank Electric Cooperative), and Mr. Gregory Padgham (Executive Director, Tri-County Council for the Lower Eastern Shore) at the 44th Annual J. Millard Tawes Crab and Clam Bake in Crisfield, Maryland.*

The 45th Annual J. Millard Tawes Crab and Clam Bake will be held on Wednesday, September 28, 2022, 12 pm - 4 pm at Somers Cove Marina in Crisfield, Maryland. This event is an outdoor all-you-can-eat affair featuring crabs, clams, fish, corn on the cob, and watermelon, and in election years, lots of politicians. The Rural Maryland Council will be taking a group of attendees down in a mini motorcoach bus from Annapolis to Crisfield. If you would be interested in attending, please contact Charlotte Davis at [charlotte.davis@maryland.gov](mailto:charlotte.davis@maryland.gov) or at 410-841-5774.

---

## Rural Healthcare Transportation

It's no surprise that healthcare improves when patients are able to regularly meet their medical appointments. Transportation and access to healthcare remains one of the top priorities for hospitals who are penalized for maintaining high readmission rates. Further, the transportation community meets paratransit demands through a complicated web of public or non-profit services. The Rural Maryland Council, in partnership with the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, are preparing to hold a series of Statewide roundtable discussions to identify and develop strategies and solutions that will improve Maryland's transportation options for non-emergency medical transportation. The roundtables will begin this August and will include representatives from both the medical and transportation fields. If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact the Rural Maryland Council at (410) 841-5772.

---

## COVID-19 Resources

The links below are for general and specific rural COVID-19 information. The following resources can also be found on our regularly updated [website](#).

- [COVID-19 Resources Useful for Rural People and Communities](#) - The Aspen Institute

- [COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#) - United States Department of Agriculture
- [Opioid Treatment Program Guidance for Patients Quarantined at Home with the Coronavirus](#) - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- [Mental Health during the Coronavirus Pandemic](#) - Maryland Health Connection
- [COVID-19 Health Crisis: Financial Relief Guide for Marylanders](#) - Maryland Department of Labor
- [Maryland COVID -19 Crisis Support Program](#) - Maryland Department of Health
- [Coronavirus Resources for Maryland](#) - Maryland Department of Health
- [Updates from Governor Hogan's Office](#) - Maryland Governor's Office

## MAERDAF Spotlight - Fiscal Year 2023 Grant Applications



**MAERDAF**  
Maryland Agricultural Education &  
Rural Development Assistance Fund

Grant applications for Fiscal Year 2023 opened on April 25, 2022. The Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) grant funding provides capacity-building funds to rural nonprofit service providers. We have received Letters of Intent for the Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF). The Grant Review Board meets on June 7-8, 2022 to review applications and to choose which organizations will continue on to Phase 2 of submitting a full application. The full application deadline is Friday, July 15, 2022. Grant awardees will be announced in August. For more information about the grant opportunities, please visit our website at [rural.maryland.gov](http://rural.maryland.gov).

## Special Feature -Maryland Day 2022



*Photo: Mr. Steve McHenry (MARBIDCO), Ms. Charlotte Davis (Executive Director, Rural Maryland Council), presenting a farm photo to Delegate Edith Patterson at the Maryland Day event on March 25, 2022.*

Maryland Day was held on Friday, March 25, 2022, at Lawyers Mall in Annapolis, MD. We appreciate the Maryland legislators and everyone who joined us for Maryland Day - to celebrate the founding of our State and to recognize the importance of the farmers, watermen, and rural communities that provide our food and fiber. We would like to give a special thank you to the sponsors that provided the lunch from the Chesapeake Culinary Center - Maryland Broadband Cooperative, Southern Maryland Agriculture Development Commission, Maryland Department of Agriculture, MARBIDCO, Maryland Heritage Areas Coalition, and MidAtlantic Farm Credit. The great vendors that provided samples during the event were - [Blades Orchard](#), [Farm to Fork Fresh](#), [Maryland Forest Association](#), [Pelaton Pharma – Nutraceuticals for Health](#), and the [Chesapeake Culinary Center](#). We plan to host this event again next year!

Rural Maryland Council is an independent state agency and Maryland's federally designated State Rural Development Council under the United States Department of Agriculture's National Rural Development Partnership. Our mission is to bring together federal, state, county, and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify challenges unique to rural communities and to develop and implement policy solutions. As a collaborative partnership, the RMC operates under the guidance of a 40-member Executive Board, in a nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory manner.

